(d) There is no trap laid by the Telecom Commission. Offers of leasing and deferred payment have been called from eligible, technically compliant suppliers.

(e) Switching equipment of various sizes are being procured on direct payment as well as on lease financing basis.

Telephone Exchanges, Posts and Telegraph Offices in Punjab

1384. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of the post offices, telegraph offices and the telephone exchanges in the State of Punjab at present;

(b) whether their number is adequate as per the population of the State;

(c) if not the steps taken by Government for increasing their number during the last three years and what steps are proposed to be taken during the last year 1994 to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The district-wise details of the post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges in the State of Punjab are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) *Post Offices*: Yes, Sir. Post offices are opened based on justification and availability of resources.

(b & (c) No, Sir. During the last 3 years, 4 telegraph offices and 103 telephone exchanges have been opened.

It is proposed to open 3 telegraph offices and 61 telephone exchanges during 1993-94 subject to availability of equipment, accommodation and funds

(c) *Post Offices*: 89 post offices were opened during the last 3 years. It is targeted to open 10 Extra Departmental Branch Post offices and 3 Departmental Sub Post Offices during the year 1993-94.

District-wise details of the post offices, Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchanges in the State of Punjab

Sl. No.	Name of District	Post Offices	Telegraph Offices	Telephone Exchanges
1	Amritsar	480	2	67
2	Bhatinda	140	1	18
3	Faridkot	338	2	59
4	Fatehgarh Sahib*	—	—	14
5	Ferozopur	299	2	62
6	Gurdaspur	280	3	47
7	Hoshiarpur	424	1	46
8	Jalandhar	492	2	68
9	Kapurthala	131	1	19
10	Ludhiana	410	2	80
11	Mansa	104	—	9
12	Patiala	279	1	41
13	Ropar	183	1	30
14	Sangrur	266	1	64

* Newly formed district. Information regarding this district is included in Patiala.